TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

840. Thirty-nine Cottage Industries Training Centres all over the State were being run during the year, including the Centres under Community Project Administration.

841. The candidates in these training centres were paid stipends ranging from Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 1-0-0 per day during the training period as a sort of encouragement to take up the craft.

842. The budget provision during the year was Rs. 5·59 lakhs. The value of cottage industries products manufactured at the departmental centres during the year was Rs. 69,891 and sales were of the value of Rs. 48,865. One hundred and forty-five candidates were undergoing training in the Cottage Industries Centres during the year.

843. The expansion of the Leather Industry at an estimated cost of Rs. 64,498 was taken up for implementation during the latter part of the year with the assistance of the Government of India to the tune of Rs. 47,300.

844. For the first time, the celebration of "Handicrafts Week" which was sponsored by the Government of India, to facilitate the various artisans of the State to meet together, discuss common problems facing their industry and find solutions to those problems, was celebrated in the State in the last week of September 1955.

(ii) The Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati.

845. The total value of sales made during the year amounted to Rs. 393 lakhs as against Rs. 298 lakhs in the previous year.

846. The output of all the products of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati, was satisfactory.

847. Excepting steel billets, the supply of all the essential raw materials like scrap, coke, and gypsum, was satisfactory.

848. The Second Electric Pig Iron Furnace was erected on 12th November 1955. The production of steel ingot in the open hearth during the year was the highest in 15 years.

849. Sanction was accorded to instal Sintering Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 42·0 lakhs at Tanigebyle.

850. A provision was made in the Draft Second Five-Year Plan for the expansion of steel production by the Mysore Iron and Steel Works to one lakh tons by 1960-61. The total estimated outlay provided in the Plan for the Schemes of the Works is six crores of rupees.

851. The Government of India ordered that the two Schemes included in the Draft Second Five-Year Plan (1) setting up an Alloy and Tool Steel Plant and (2) Stainless Steel Plant, be deleted from the expansion programme of the Works, as decided by the Planning Commission.

852. Government have declared that the Iron and Steel Industry in the State to be a Public Utility Service for the purpose of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 upto end of June 1956.

853. The relationship between the Management and the Labour was cordial. Sanction was accorded to the construction of 20 labour blocks of six units at the Mines at a total cost of Rs. 2,30,500 and for the construction of 78 labour and staff quarters at Bhadravati at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,71,474 and for effecting improvements to water supply system in Hutha Colony at an estimated cost of Rs. 1·32 lakhs.

(iii) **Textiles.**

854. The Department has been executing the schemes for the development of the Handloom and Khadi Industry during the last three years financed by the Government of India, in addition to carrying on its normal activities.

855. Out of the total grant and loan of Rs. 24·36 lakhs made available by the Government of India to the State Government, an expenditure of Rs. 15·71 lakhs was incurred.

856. One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven weavers were brought within the co-operative sector, thus increasing the strength of looms from 19,063 to 21,646 by advancing loans towards share capital at Rs. 7-8-0 per weaver.

857. Grant of interest free loans to 85 out of 122 'Weavers' Co-operative Societies enabled them to produce 848 bales of yarn of the value of Rs. 6,00,203 and fabrics of the value of Rs. 2,53,192.